

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated 29 December 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 8 and 15 – 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The Examiner also noted that claims 9 – 14 are allowable over the prior art.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1 – 8 and 15 – 29 herein and respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in a timely manner for the allowable claims 9 – 14. If the Examiner believes that any further issues need to be addressed, or has proposed clarifications to the claims, the undersigned is available at the convenience of the Examiner for a telephone interview to address these issues.

A Petition For Extension Of Time for three months and the accompanying fee is attached. Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge any additionally required fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1848.

Respectfully submitted,
PATTON BOGGS LLP

Dated: 06/28/04

By: 
James M. Graziano, Reg. No. 28,300
Tel.: 303-894-6113
Fax: 303 -894-9239

Customer No. 24283